Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Firstly, a method of manufacturing a mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulator (thermally insulating mat) will be described below by referring to FIGS. 1-7. The method comprises (1) manufacturing a fibrous built-up article 1, (2) cutting the fibrous built-up article 1 into cut built-up ~~articles 3, (1)~~ articles 31, 32, 33, 34, (3) rotating at least one of the cut built-up articles 3 by an angle of 90 degrees to produce a rotated built-up article, and (4) integrating the cut built-up articles and/or the rotated built-up articles one another into a mat.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Then, the built-up article 1 is cut longitudinally (in a direction perpendicular to the fibers) to produce a plurality of cut built-up articles 31, 32, 33, 34. While the built-up article 1 is cut into four articles in the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 2, the present invention is by no means limited thereto, and the built-up article 1 may be cut into three or six articles instead of four, for example. The number of the cut built-up articles and the width of the cut built-up article produced may be determined to meet the requirements relating to them. In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 2, each of the cut built-up articles has a same width (and hence the built-up article 1 is evenly divided). However, the present invention is by no means limited thereto. In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 2, each of the cut built-up ~~articles 3~~ articles 31, 32, 33, 34 has a thickness Y of 105mm, a width X of 90mm. However, each of the cut built-up articles 31, 34 may be made to have a width of 90mm, and each of the cut built-up articles 32, 33 may be made to have a width of 140mm. They may have some other values for the width.

Please replace the heading beginning on page 10, line 29, with the following rewritten heading::

(3) Rotating the built-up ~~article 3~~articles 31, 32, 33, 34

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thereafter, at least one of the plurality of cut built-up ~~articles 3~~ articles 31, 32, 33, 34 is rotated by 90 degrees in a direction (A-direction) perpendicular to the longitudinal direction (Z-direction) to produce a rotated built-up article. Thus, the fibers of the rotated built-up ~~article 3~~ articles 31, 32, 33, 34 are aligned to the direction of thickness (Y-direction).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 3 shows an embodiment where all the cut built-up articles 31, 32, 33, 34 are rotated by ~~90 degrees,~~ 90 degrees to form the rotated built-up articles 331, 332, 333, 334, whereas FIG. 4 shows an embodiment where only the articles 31, 34 are rotated by 90 degrees.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For the purpose of the present invention, any cut built-up article(s) may be rotated by 90 degrees. When it is desired to raise the strength of the thermally insulating mat 4 along the lateral surfaces thereof, only the cut built-up articles 31, 34 located at the lateral ends are rotated by 90 degrees to form the rotated built-up articles 331, 334 as shown in FIG. 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Instead, cut built-up articles (rotated built-up articles) may be integrated to form the thermally insulating mat 4, by covering a coat ~~5~~ 51, 52 on at least one surfaces of the cut built-up articles (rotated built-up articles). In this case, it is not necessary to apply the adhesive agent on the lateral surface of the cut built-up article (rotated built-up article). In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 8, the rotated built-up articles 331, 332, 333, 334 are covered at top surfaces and bottom surfaces thereof by a top facing material 51 and a bottom facing material 52, which are bonded to the respective surfaces by means of an adhesive agent 8, 8 so as to integrate the rotated built-up articles 331, 332, 333, 334. Alternatively, the rotated built-up articles may be covered only at one of the top surfaces or the bottom surfaces. Still alternatively, as shown in FIG. 9, the top facing material 51 may be arranged so as to cover the top surface and the opposite lateral surfaces of the integrated articles, and the bottom facing material 52 may be arranged so as to cover the bottom surface of the integrated articles. Additionally, the front surface and the surfaces of the integrated article or the insulating mat may be covered by a facing material.